

REPORT OF UINTAH AND OURAY AGENCY.

[Received too late for insertion in proper place.]

UINTAH AND OURAY AGENCY,
White Rocks, Utah, November 17, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following as the annual report of this agency for the year ending June 30, 1896:

The Uintah Utes have made fine progress in farming. The plan of locating heads of families upon lands with the intention of eventually having the same assigned to them under provisions of the allotment laws has become well understood by this band. They are unanimously in favor of this plan and eagerly interested in having it consummated. The Uintahs will accept and improve upon any advantages that are provided to enable them to live in ways of civilization.

The White River Utes residing upon the reservation with the Uintahs have heretofore held back from accepting the proposition for them to settle in permanent locations, but the object lessons illustrated in the farms established for the Uintahs have been effectual, so that very many of this band have commenced earnestly the work of providing something for themselves, and almost every head of a family has asked to be located on farms covered by the new water ditches.

The Uncompahgres who have been located upon the farms have made good efforts to do something for themselves. The season up to June 30 has been very much against this band on account of unusually heavy rain storms, attended frequently with cloud-bursts which have inundated their farms and left their land covered with mud and debris. They have received this misfortune patiently and worked industriously in repairing damages and attempting to save such of their crops as there was any hope for saving.

Considering the many discouraging influences working against this band they did remarkably well. They receive no helpful influences from the people of Utah generally, and as a rule the prominent politicians of the State appear to be exercising themselves for the accomplishment of their destruction. The Uncompahgres are informed of the situation sufficiently to keep them in a state of unrest and anxious suspense, which tends to dishearten them in their efforts for self-improved conditions and hopes for the future. Notwithstanding all this, this band, like the Uintahs and White Rivers, has shown appreciation of the advantages offered them by the agency at the present time, and they are still hopeful that the houses and other considerations promised them in the treaty under which they were removed from their country in Colorado will yet be supplied.

The principal work of the agency during the past year has been in completing the construction of the canals and ditches for supplying water for irrigation purposes. This work has been retarded considerably on account of the destructive rain storms that have been experienced generally in the mountain sections of Utah. It has, however, been so far accomplished that water can now be supplied in abundance for irrigating all the land that will ever be required for giving all the Indians of this agency farms containing their full allotment allowance of acres as homesteads.

The school at the Uintah Agency has been successfully and profitably conducted. Most of the parents of the children that attend this school appreciate the benefits it affords, and, while others are not enthusiastic in supporting it, there are but few Indians of the reservation that do not show it good will.

The school of the Ouray Agency, established for the benefit of the Uncompahgres, has not been so successful in increase in enrollment. The children who have been gathered there have been wonderfully transformed in appearance, and have advanced well in school knowledge. The Uncompahgres, for various reasons, have been slow in giving up their children to the school.

The teachers and employees of both schools are thoroughly devoted to their duties.

The Episcopal Church, through the efforts of the Right Rev. Abiel Leonard, missionary bishop of Utah and Nevada, has commenced work among the Indians of this agency that promises well. A beautiful little church has been erected near the Ouray school, also a neat, well-finished cottage, which is occupied by the resident missionary, Rev. Mr. West, a young man from Virginia. These buildings,

with the improved grounds upon which they are located, present a very attractive appearance. On Sundays the children with their teachers and employees of the school go over to the church and attend divine worship. This service is often well attended by the adult Indians residing in the neighborhood of the school.

In the management of this agency during the past year, as in previous years, there has been much outside opposing influence to contend with. The whisky venders have been somewhat restrained through stringent measures adopted for suppression of their nefarious work. The Indians seem to have become sensible of the harm they have experienced through the drink habit, and compared with former years there has been but very little drunkenness among the people of either band.

Distrust and anxiety are ever present in the minds of the entire Indian population of this agency on account of reports that are received regarding the efforts that are made by politicians of Utah for the opening of these reservations for settlement by whites. Believing that this opening can not be much longer deferred, the most important of all matters pertaining to affairs of this agency seems to be in the work of locating heads of families permanently upon suitable lands for homesteads, and so selecting the locations that the settlement of their perpetual rights in said lands can readily be arranged and perfected.

Acknowledgments are due each and all of the employees of the agency for faithful and efficient service rendered, and with due appreciation of the universally kind consideration and abundant support that has been received from the Department at Washington,

I remain, very respectfully,

JAMES F. RANDETT,

Lieutenant-Colonel U. S. A., Acting United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.